

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2210

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN KS UR
SUBJ: ROKG NOTE CONCERNING FISHING IN RUSSIAN WATERS.

REF: STATE 59047

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER YOON HAS ASKED ME TO TRANSMIT THE
FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM TO THE DEPARTMENT:

QUOTE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA.
MEMORANDUM. IT IS LEARNED THAT THE SOVIET COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS DECIDED TO PUT IN EFFECT, AS OF MARCH 1, 1977,
THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM DECREE OF DECEMBER 10,
1976, ON TEMPORARY MEASURES TO PROTECT LIVING RESOURCES AND
THE REGULATE FISHING IN SEA AREAS OFF THE USSR COASTLINE.

THE ARTICLE 3 OF THE SAID SOVIET DECREE STIPULATES
TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FOREIGN VESSELS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED
TO CONDUCT FISHING OPERATIONS IN THE SEA AREAS OFF THE
USSR COASTLINE WITHOUT THE AGREEMENTS OF OTHER UNDER-
STANDINGS BETWEEN THE USSR AND FOREIGN STATES CONCERNED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT WISHES
TO TRANSMIT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR, THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE FOLLOWING POSITION
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REGARDING THE FISHING OPERATIONS OF THE KOREAN VESSELS IN THE SEA
AREAS OFF THE USSR COASTLINE, IN THE INTEREST OF THE TRADITIONAL
FISHING OPERATIONS BY THE KOREAN FISHING VESSELS IN THE WATERS OFF
THE USSR COASTLINE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW SOVIET
MEASURES.

1. THE KOREAN VESSELS HAVE ENGAGED IN FISHING OF POLLOCK OFF THE

COASTS OF THE KAMCHATKA PENINSULA SINCE 1966. THE RECENT STATISTICS SHOW THAT THE ANNUAL CATCH OF POLLOCK BY KOREAN VESSELS IN THE KAMCHATKA WATERS

AMOUNTED TO 200,000 TO 400,000 METRIC TONS DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1973 TO 1976. SUCH HISTORICAL FISHING RIGHTS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE OFF THE COASTS OF THE KAMCHATKA PENINSULA, AMONG OTHERS, SHOULD BE DULY RESPECTED, AND THE FISHING BY THE KOREAN VESSELS OF POLLOCK SHOULD NOT BE IMPAIRED BY ANY UNILATERAL REGULATIONS TO BE IMPOSED BY THE USSR AUTHORITIES.

2. THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT NON-GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS, IF NOT GOVERNMENTAL, SHOULD BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN THE CONCERNED PARTIES IN ORDER TO EXPLORE AND DISCUSS, IF NECESSARY, POSSIBLE WAYS AND MEANS OF CONTINUED FISHING OPERATIONS BY THE KOREAN VESSELS WITHIN THE SAID USSR WATERS.

3. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, IN THE FACE OF THE DECISIONS BY THE SOVIET COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, HAS VOLUNTARILY TAKEN PROMPT MEASURES TO WITHDRAW THE KOREAN FISHING VESSELS FROM THE KAMCHATKA WATERS, BY MARCH 1, 1977, WITH A VIEW TO AVOIDING ANY UNDERSIRABLE FISHERIES DISPUTES AND UNEXPECTED INCIDENTS WHICH MAY INVOLVE KOREAN VESSELS OPERATING IN THE SAID WATERS.

4. THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS PREPARED TO IMPORT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF SOVIET POLLOCKS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE FOR ANIMAL PROTEIN, THE POLLOCK BEING ONE OF ITS MAJOR SOURCES, IF THE SOVIET SIDE OFFERS THE REASONABLE PRICE FOR THEM.

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5. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA EXPRESSES ITS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.S.S.R. AUTHORITIES IN THEIR EFFORTS FOR FISHERIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT. MARCH 18, 1977, SEOUL. END QUOTE.

2. I TOLD YOON THAT WE HAD RECENTLY APPROACHED THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON THIS SUBJECT WITHOUT HOWEVER GIVING HIM DETAILS OF THE CONVERSATION. HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR OF OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE ROKG. HE SAID HOWEVER THAT CERTAIN MINISTRIES IN THE ROKG WOULD FEEL BETTER IF OUR REPRESENTATIONS TO THE USSR WERE IN WRITTEN FORM RATHER THAN ORAL. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO ORIENTAL CULTURAL TRAIT WHICH PUTS GREATER RELIANCE ON THE WRITTEN WORD RATHER THAN THE ORAL. STERN

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